

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT KINGSTON 1576 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRIDGETOWN
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 1576

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, JM

SUBJECT: MANLEY, MATALON SPEAK OUT ON MAFIA, CRIME

1. SPEAKING ON MAY 3 AT THE OPENING OF A FOOD PROCESSING
PLANT IN SOUTHWESTERN JAMAICA, PRIME MINISTER
MANLEY SAID "THE GREAT CRIME SYNDICATE OF AMERICA, THE
MAFIA, IS TRYING TO GET A FOOT HOLD IN JAMAICA. IT IS
LIKE AN OCTOPUS, BUT ITS TENTACLES WILL BE CUT." THE
PM DESCRIBED THE MEASURES THE GOJ HAD TAKEN TO
ERADICATE CRIME AND NOTED THAT MOST REPEAT MOST OF THE CRIMES
COMMITTED FELL UNDER THE CONTROL OF ORGANIZED CRIME AND
THE MAFIA WAS ONE OF THE ORGANIZATIONS BEHIND IT. THE
PM EMPHASIZED THAT GOVERNMENT WAS DOING EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE TO ELIMINATE CRIME FROM THE SOCIETY

2. ELI MATALON, MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND
JUSTICE, IN A SPEECH TO THE MONTEGO BAY CHAMBER OF
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COMMERCE ON MAY 4, DEFENDED GOJ ANTI-CRIME MEASURES

AND WARNED THAT, WHILE CRIME WAS BEING CONTAINED, THE DANGERS WERE STILL VERY EVIDENT. IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME, MATALON SAID, "THERE IS NO UMBRELLA OVER THE POLITICIAN, OVER THE POLICE, THE ARMY OR OTHER SECURITY FORCES." HE CITED THE LINKAGE BETWEEN ILLEGAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS, THE EXPORT OF MARIJUANA, THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF COCAINE, THE IMPORT OF GUNS AND THE "DEATH-TRAP" BUILD INTO THE EXCHANGE. MATALON ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS ROOM FOR CRITICISM OF SOME OF HIS ANTI-CRIME MEASURES, BUT WARNED THAT UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THE NATION HAD NO CHOICE. HE CONCLUDED HIS SPEECH WITH A PROMISE TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE CRIMINAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

3. IN A POSSIBLY CRIME-RELATED INCIDENT, THE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE MONTEGO BAY LIONS CLUB AND PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN, REGINALD PERRIN, WAS SHOT AND KILLED AT HIS MONTEGO BAY HOME AT 2 AM MAY 5. HIS HOME WAS RANSACKED AND THE POLICE INITIALLY BELIEVE THE MOTIVE WAS ROBBERY.

4. COMMENT. MANLEY AND MATALON HAVE LONG BELIEVED THAT THE MAFIA IS ATTEMPTING TO GET A FOOTHOLD IN JAMAICA. LAST WEEK'S DECISION TO DENY A PERMIT TO THE PROMOTERS OF A SECOND RACE TRACK IN THE ISLAND, THOUGH STATED IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC PRIORITIES, WAS PROBABLY MOTIVATED BY THE FEAR THAT MAFIA INTERESTS WERE INVOLVED WITH THE LOCAL PROMOTERS. HEWITT UNQTE RUSH

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